

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this has been an unusual day. Earlier today, the majority wanted to vote on the Thompson amendment. We were led to believe, not wrongly, that the minority did not want a vote on that today. So we decided we would not vote on that today. We learned, later in the day, that Senator THOMPSON wanted a vote on his amendment today. By then, people had gone home for September 11 occurrences.

So now we are in a position where Senator THOMPSON thought there would be nothing happening on his bill today, and he left to do other things.

We have learned that the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, Mr. HOLLINGS, now wishes to offer a second-degree amendment to the Thompson amendment. I have not been able to speak to Senator THOMPSON. I have spoken, on a couple of occasions, to the Senator from South Carolina.

It would be my suggestion, therefore, that the Senator from South Carolina speak on his amendment, and that on Thursday, when we come back on this homeland security bill again, the Senator from South Carolina be recognized to offer his amendment.

We would be taking no advantage of the minority because, as everyone knows, the majority leader has the right of first recognition. And we have indicated to the Senator from South Carolina that he would be in order to offer that amendment, unless we can work something out with Senator THOMPSON that it need not be offered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. So I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that we go to a period of morning business, now, until 6 o'clock today, with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each. I hope that we would have consent that Senator HOLLINGS could offer the amendment; otherwise, we would, of course, have Senator DASCHLE come and offer that on Thursday.

Is the Senator from South Carolina satisfied with that?

Mr. HOLLINGS. That I be allowed to offer it at what time on Thursday?

Mr. REID. We have not decided what time Thursday, but we do not go to the bill until Thursday afternoon because—

Mr. HOLLINGS. If I could at least get an hour of debate, or whatever it is, on my amendment before we vote on the Thompson amendment.

Mr. REID. Yes. On the Thompson amendment itself, we were planning to do an hour and a half to 2 hours of debate prior to voting on it. That was the plan. Now, with you offering this second-degree amendment, I don't know what the pleasure of Senator THOMPSON would be. But we will work on that today, and tomorrow if necessary, with your staff and his.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I thank the distinguished leader. I think he has certainly accommodated the Senator from South Carolina. I definitely understand Senator THOMPSON is not here. I wanted to offer it while he is here so we can talk about it. But we will offer it at that particular time on Thursday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Nevada?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.
ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to share a few thoughts on the eve of tomorrow's anniversary of the terrorist attack, September 11, 2001. Tomorrow, a lot of our colleagues, both in this Chamber and the other body, will be expressing themselves, with many Members attending memorial services at the Pentagon. The Senate, as a body, plans to come together late tomorrow morning to meet as a body and to share our thoughts with the country about the events of a year ago. I take this opportunity to remember and to honor the nearly 3,000 of our fellow citizens and others who had come to this country to work—not all were Americans; the majority were—but lost their lives 1 year ago tomorrow in one of America's darkest of days.

I also join all of America in paying tribute once again to the countless men and women whose acts of bravery and heroism so inspired us on that day and the days that followed the tragedy of September 11, and continue to serve as a solemn reminder that the American spirit shines as bright as ever despite the events of that day, that horrible day a year ago.

Thousands of families across this great country of ours, including families in my home State of Connecticut—families in my State lost some 149 people, most of whom lost their lives in the World Trade Center—these families and their loved ones have endured a year of unimaginable grief and unimaginable bravery. Every American grieves with them as many of our fellow citizens the world over from around the globe have shared with us the sense of grief and horror of a year ago and have continued to relate to us and to share their thoughts and prayers with all Americans as a result of our commemoration of the events of 12 months ago.

Over the past 12 months, I have heard countless stories, tragedies that were once unthinkable. In Connecticut, I know of a man who lost both his wife and his only child on that day a year ago; of parents who lost their young children in their twenties, just beginning their lives as young adults, with professional careers; of wives who had received the last phone calls from their husbands before the Twin Towers fell.

Every American will always remember where they were when the Twin

Towers were attacked and collapsed. Every American will always remember where they were when they heard a hijacked plane had crashed into the Pentagon, only a few blocks from where I am sharing these thoughts this afternoon. Every American will always remember how they felt upon learning that a group of passengers fought back against the terrorists who hijacked their plane before it crashed in the field of Pennsylvania. September 11, 2001, is a day that will be etched in all of our memories for the rest of our lives and etched in history forever.

Although all Americans went through that day together, we will always share its memory. Last September 11 was also a deeply personal day for each and every one of us. We each had our own highly personal experiences during those horrid hours that began in the early morning—that wonderful clear, bright, cloudless sky over the eastern part of our country.

For me, the hours and days and weeks following the terrorist attacks were filled with immensely mixed emotions, as most of my colleagues know. I see my friend and colleague from Texas on the floor. We shared the great joy last year of having children come into our lives. My first child, my daughter Grace, was born just 48 hours after the attacks, born on September 13, at a hospital right across the river in Virginia. From the window of the maternity ward, my wife Jackie and I watched the smoke rising from the still-burning Pentagon as we held our newborn child in our hands.

I can still vividly recall trying to balance my feelings of incredible, intense joy with this new beautiful life, mixed with the powerful feelings of horror and trepidation over what kind of a world my daughter Grace would grow up in, in the 21st century.

Something heartened me that day. I have told this story on numerous occasions. In the hospital as my wife held our newborn daughter, many of the doctors and nurses, several of them who held her shortly after she was born, came from places outside of America to become citizens. Three of them came from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Lebanon. Here we are, 48 hours after the events, those countries had been the places of refuge for those engaged in the attacks on our country, and here were people from that very part of the world, United States citizens today, nurturing and caring for my newborn daughter.

That was all the evidence I needed at that particular moment that America was attacked not for who we are, but for what we stand for: Freedom, liberty, and community. And we shared something very powerful in common: We were devastated over the attacks, and we were never prouder to be Americans, almost simultaneously.

Word was already out that the terrorist attacks were the work of al-Qaeda, a fanatical group which hijacked planes, but also an otherwise